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ABSTRACT

The Adult Diploma Program is a high school equivalency program that is operated as a partnership between the Continuing Education Institute in Watertown, Massachusetts, and five area businesses. In early 1997, 36 of the program's 40 graduates were surveyed regarding their activities since graduation and their views of the program's usefulness to them and others. Of the 36 graduates surveyed, 13 (36%) had changed jobs since graduation, 9 (25%) had already been promoted since graduation, 14 (39%) had more responsibility on their jobs, 12 (33%) were continuing their education, and 17 (47%) were planning to continue their education. Four respondents were enrolled in college or technical school and working toward a degree. Of the respondents, 25 (69%) credited the program with improving the reading skills they use at work, 25 (69%) credited it with improving the writing skills they use at work, and 21 (58%) credited it with improving the math skills they use at work. In addition, 24 (67%) of respondents believed that the program's life employment workshop helped them decide on future employment goals, and 30 (83%) recommended the program to others. (A copy of the questionnaire, complete with the responses obtained, is included.) (MN)

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ED 425 301

Adult Diploma Program Graduate Survey Report

National Workplace Literacy Program

CONTINUING EDUCATION INSTITUTE
GLOBAL 2000 PROJECT

7c. Adult Diploma Program Materials: Post-Assessment Survey

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Continuing Education Institute

Adult Diploma Program Graduate Survey Report

Class: June 30, 1996 Report Date: Feb. 25, 1997

Participating Organizations:
American Engineered Components
Analog Devices
Boston Scientific
Fire Control Instruments
NIDEC/Power General

Number of Graduates: 40

Summary: The following are the results of a survey of 1996 graduates of the Adult Diploma Program. 36 of 40 graduates (90%) were contacted. 4 were not reachable.

Major Results:
Of the 36 graduates surveyed:

- 13 (36%) have changed jobs since graduation
- 9 (25%) have already been promoted since graduation
  8 of these (89%) credit their participation in the Adult Diploma Program for their promotion
- 14 (39%) have more responsibility on their jobs
  8 of these (57%) credit their participation in the Adult Diploma Program for their increased responsibility
- 12 (33%) have continued their education
  9 of these (75%) say they were well prepared for further education by their participation in the Adult Diploma Program
- 17 (47%) are planning to continue their education
- 4 are enrolled in college or technical school working toward a degree
- 25 (69%) improved reading skills used at work
- 25 (69%) improved writing skills used at work
- 21 (58%) improved math skills used at work
- 24 (67%) believed the Life Employment Workshop helped them decide on future employment goals
- 30 (83%) recommended the program to others

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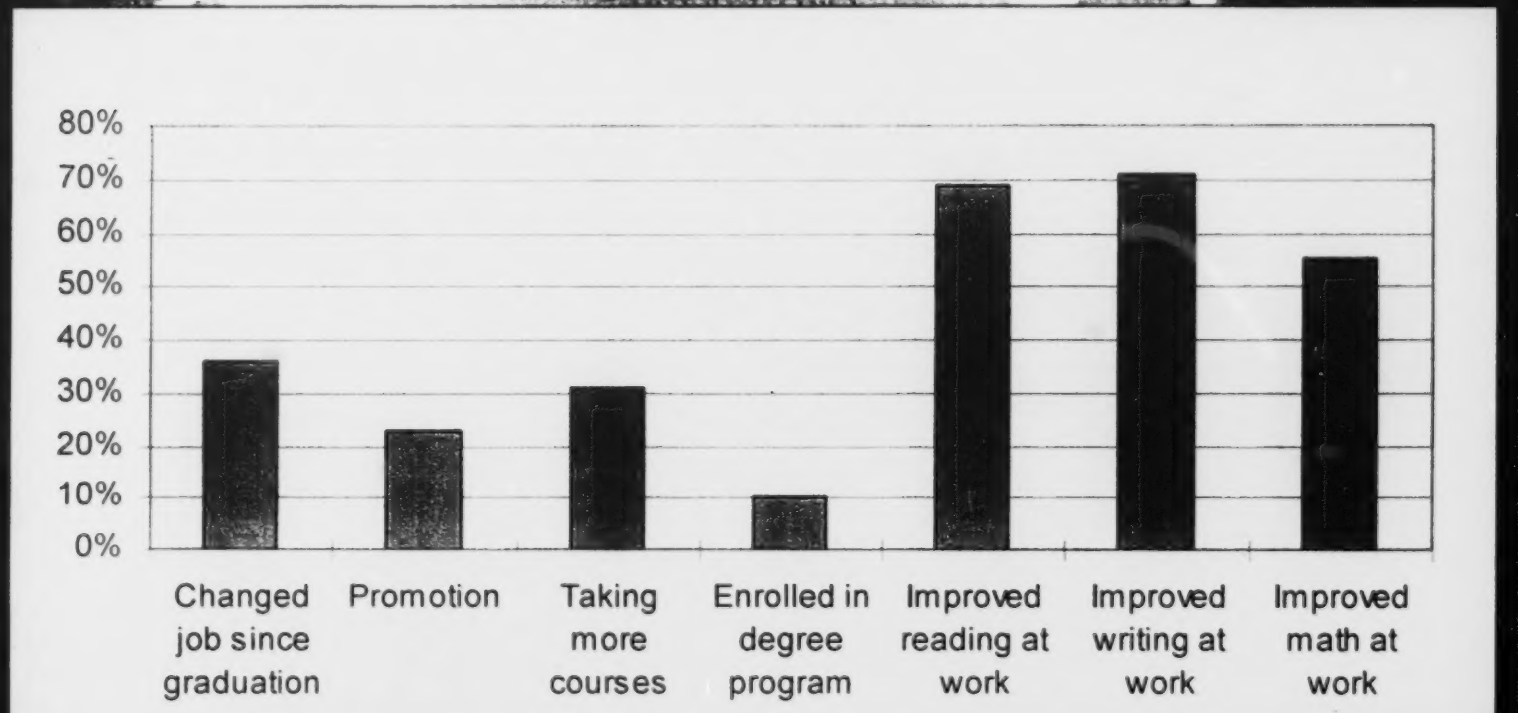
Continuing Education Institute Workplace Education Assessment:
Survey Results for 1996 Adult Diploma Program Graduates, Six Months after Graduation
(40 out of 49 graduates surveyed)



Below is an in-depth look at the results of the survey:

1. **What was your job when you graduated?**

Assembler	11
Group Leader	5
Quality Control Inspector	3
Quality Assurance Inspector	3
Production Worker	2
Machine Operator	2
Fork Lift Operator	2
Quality Senior Inspector	
Kanban Materials Clerk	
Stock Room Clerk	
Mold Heatset	
Inspector	
Material Handling III	
Unemployed	

Since graduation have you changed your job?

Yes 13 No 23

If yes: What is your new job title?

Assembler	3
Engineering Coordinator	
Manufacturer Trainer	
Data Entry Clerk	
Ship Up Operator	
Machine Operator	
Supervisor	
Counselor	
Material Handling IV	
Shipper Picker	
Unemployed	

Is this a promotion?

Yes 9 No 1 No Answer 4

Did you get this new job because of getting your diploma?

Yes 8 I don't know 6

Please explain how:

Speak and write better	2
Communicate with engineers	
More writing responsibilities	
Can pass on my knowledge	

Do you have more responsibility on your job now?

Yes 14 No 17 No Answer 5

How?

More people to train	3
More computer work	2
More people to manage	2
More technical	
Working with engineers and supervisors	
Writing procedures and reports	
Dealing with more people	

Do you think this is a result of getting your diploma or something else?

Getting diploma	8
Don't know	6

If you were not employed at the time you graduated, have you attained a job?

Yes 1

What is your job title?

Counselor

2. **Since graduation have you taken any courses, attended any workshops or seminars, etc. through and or outside of work?**

Yes 12 No 18 No Answer 6

If yes, what courses have you taken?

Typing	2	Introduction to Windows
Pre College Writing		Excel
Engineering Graphics		Introduction to Computers
Calculus		Soldering
Algebra		Electronics
Math		Team management
Manufacturing		Mechanical Engineering
Computers		

Were these courses at your workplace or somewhere else?

Waltham High School	2
Wentworth College	2
Masssasoit Community College	
Roxbury Community College	
Blue Hills Regional School	
Workplace	

Did the Adult Diploma Program help prepare you for this course?
Yes 9 (of 12 who have taken additional courses)

In what ways?

Writing	2	More confidence	
Sense of how to approach college courses	2	Learned to use computer	
Spelling		Understanding words	
Stopped fear of writing		Learned to ask questions	
Enjoyed reading more		Reading	
Enjoyed creative writing more		Communicating	

If you have not taken any course since graduation, are you planning to take any courses? Yes 17 No 5 No Answer 2

What would you choose to study?

Computers	7
Accounting	2
Special writing for reports	
Marketing	
Electronics	
Management	
Engineering	
History	
Appraisal	

Are you enrolled in college now?
Yes 4 No 32

If yes, would you have enrolled in this program if you had not received your high school diploma? No (Had to get diploma to go to college) 3

If yes, full-time or part-time?
part-time 3

What courses have you taken?
Pre-College Writing
Engineering Graphics
Calculus
Manufacturing

Are you studying toward a degree?
Yes 2 No 1

If yes, what kind of a degree?

Associate Degree
Engineering

3. **Do you have to read on your job?** Yes 26 No 3 No Answer 7

In what ways did the reading course in the Adult Diploma Program help you with the skills required on your job?

Can understand "procedures" better	6
Better understanding of what is read	5
Can explain things to others better	4
Focus better	2
Don't mind reading out loud	2
Vocabulary & using dictionary	2
Speaking English improved	
Writing reports	
Read faster	
Accuracy	

4. **Do you have to write on your job?** Yes 28 No 2 No Answer 3

In what ways did the writing course in the Adult Diploma Program help you with the skills required on your job?

memo, notes and report writing	3
grammar	3
vocabulary	3
re-writing the "procedures"	
learned to use computer	
learned how to write applications for new job	
writing personal reviews	
organization of thoughts	
the knowledge to know that I can read	
spelling	
punctuation	
technical writing	
word association	

5. **Do you have to use math on your job?** Yes 23 No 7 No Answer 6

In what ways did the math course in the Adult Diploma Program help you with the skills required on your job?

Brush up on skills	4
Learned percentages	3
Learned fractions and averages	3
Learned to use calculator	2
Weight and measures	2

Machine automation

6. **What are your future employment goals?**

Engineering	5
Try to get a better job - move up	4
Become a supervisor	2
Work with computers	2
Go to college	2
Become a trainer	2
Marketing	
Change departments	
Do a better job	
Work in doctors office	
Clerical work in accounting	
Own a business	
Be a clinician in substance abuse	
None /don't know	7

Did the Life Employment Workshop help you decide on these goals?

Yes 24 No 12

How did it help?

Resume, cover letter, interview, asking questions
Helped me find out how to go back to college
Learned about more opportunities

7. **In what ways has being in the Adult Diploma Program affected other members of your family, or friends?**

They are proud and happy for me	4
Family was supportive	4
Friend is taking or will take class	2
Showed them that they should try hard in school	2
Able to help children with homework	
Others helped with homework	
Others were envious	
Took away from time with family	
Children learned along with student	
People saw the difference in me	
Showed them that they can do it too	
Better able to help family with problems	
Easier to communicate with co-workers	
Don't know	4
Did not	8

8. **What did you like best about the Adult Diploma Program?**

Math	9	Received a high school diploma	3
Teachers	5	Writing	2
Reading	5	Graduation	
All subjects	4	Presentation	
English	4	Awareness of future possibilities	
Life Employment	4	Awareness of self potential	
History	4	Company brought the school to me	
Science	3	Getting back to continue my education	

9. **What did you like least about the Adult Diploma Program?**

Nothing	13
First half of Life Employment Workshop did not focus	4
Presenting in front of group	3
Math	2
There has not been a promotion	2
Time adjustment	
History	
In the history class, guidelines should be followed more closely	
Life Employment Workshop had no book	
Too much work	
Few students who whined a lot and took up teacher's time	

10. **Which courses were most helpful and why?**

Reading and Writing	11
Reading	2
Writing	8
Writing about past helped for self-awareness	
Can communicate better	
Life Employment Workshop	8
Confidence	2
Showed how to do everyday things at work	
Focus on speaking and writing skills	
Learned more about computers	
Learned to write resumes, interview etc.	
Math	4
Learned new applications	
History	4
Can talk to other people about it	
Courses that included presentation	3
Gave confidence that it could be done	
All courses	2
Courses that had students working as a group	
Computer	

11. **Would you recommend this program to others?**
Yes 28 No Answer 8
Why?
Education is important 4
It gives you more confidence 3
Education is valuable - must read & speak & write to get ahead 3
Many don't have this opportunity 2
Learn how to communicate 2
Convenience of workplace
Learning more is better 2
Older people can do it as well as young people 2
Teachers are very good
Brush up
More comfortable than other GED courses
Gives opportunity to go to college
Higher level of learning than other GED courses
Self satisfaction
Not too hard
Opportunity to grow
Best thing I ever did for myself
Big encouragement to me
Learned more than in school

12. **Have you recommended this program to others?** Yes 30
No 1 (because not in workplace anymore) No Answer 5

13. **Do you have any anecdotes or stories that would support the fact that getting your diploma has improved your life in some way?**
Need more programs because it is important for everyone to have a college education 2
Glad BSC is trying to do it again
Teachers were very patient
Found out I could go to college and do what college people do
Would like to tutor for this program
Had to work hard, but would do it all over again
Saw a lot of improvement in others who were in the program
I am not shy any more to speak up on what's what
Thanks Power General and CEI!
Best thing I did was to sign up for course
(Family and friends) look at me and see that they can do it too: "If I can do it...anybody can!"
The program helped me to prepare myself to go to college